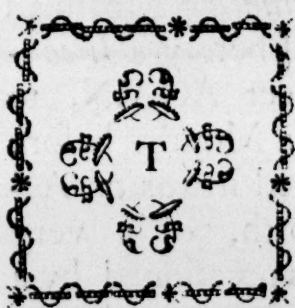

T H E

C R I S I S.

NUMBER II. *To be continued Weekly.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1775. [*Price Two-pence Half-penny.*]

A Bloody Court, A Bloody Ministry, And A Bloody Parliament.



THE sudden and unexpected Dissolution of the last ruinous Parliament, gave a just and general Alarm to the whole Nation; and we may search in vain the voluminous Pages of *Grecian*, *Roman*, or *English* History, to find such another Plan of PREMEDITATED Villainy, for destroying at one grand stroke of ROYAL and Ministerial Policy, all the Rights of a FREE PEOPLE. Lord North, engendered in the Womb of Hell, raised by the fostering Hand of *infernal Spirits*, and possessing Principles that have eclipsed ALL the GLORIES of his SATANIC Parents, had the Effrontery to declare in the Face of the House of Commons and the World, but a few Days before the Recess of the late Parliament, that they should meet AGAIN early in *October*, for the Disbatch of Business. When he uttered this Falshood, it was suspected by many, and he well knew it had been determined that they should be dissolved, altho' the precise Time was not fixed. On the 16th
Day

Day of *September* 1774, a Notice was published in the *Gazette* for the last Parliament to MEET on the 15th of *November*; eleven Days had not elapsed before a Proclamation appeared for its DISSOLUTION, and the calling a *new* Parliament. Who can guard against *Deception, Artifice, and Villainy*, when stamped with ROYAL AUTHORITY? The very Thought of an HONEST House of Commons struck *Terror* into the guilty Soul of Lord North, the diabolical Minion of ROYAL Favour, and Instrument of ROYAL Vengeance; nay, even the King (*virtuous as he is*) had his FEARS; and in order to secure their own *Creatures and Dependents*, or, in other Words, to have the old Parliament new revived, and *smuggle* a Majority of *venal abandoned* Miscreants (who would deny their God, or sell their SOULS for *Money*) into the present House of Commons, Lord North sent Letters to ALL his Friends that THEY might be PREPARED, and it was known in the most distant Parts of *England*, and even the Time of Election fixed in several *Boroughs in Cornwall*, some Days BEFORE the Parliament was DISSOLVED. This is a TRUTH which Lord North with all his consummate Impudence cannot DENY.

The ministerial *Hacks* were immediately set to work to fabricate Lies (and publish them in the News-paper) to delude and deceive the Electors; that little or no Opposition might be made to the Tools of Government. One Report said, the Dissolution of Parliament was owing to some *disagreeable* Advices received from *America*, and that our *virtuous* King, with his still *more virtuous* Ministers, intended to adopt some *conciliating* Measures with Respect to the Colonies, and that it would betray a *Weakness* in the King to let the same Parliament meet AGAIN, to *repeal* those Acts, which they had but a few Months before *passed*. Another Report, equally TRUE, asserted it was on Account of Intelligence received from the North, of a very ALARMING Nature; and a Third, that it was occasioned by a Difference between the *French* and *English* Ministry, which rendered such a Step necessary, as there was great Reason to believe we should *soon* be involved in a War, and that it would be exceedingly improper to have the Nation put in a Ferment, by a general Election, at so critical a Time as that, and when the Assistance of Parliament, would be particularly wanted. A fourth Report was, that Lord Chatham and his Friends would be *immediately* taken into FAVOUR, and that there was to be an ENTIRE CHANGE in the Ministry. By these low Artifices and ministerial Lies, the People of *England* were lulled into a State of Stupor, and even made to lend a helping Hand to complete their OWN RUIN.

The

The subsequent Part of this Paper shall unravel the diabolical Scheme. Lord North saw a powerful Opposition forming in every Part of *England*; he was fearful of ASSOCIATIONS; he dreaded a SOLEMN LEAGUE and COVENANT, which he was certain the People would have entered into for the Preservation of their RIGHTS and LIBERTIES before next *May*, the Time when the Parliament would have been DISSOLVED of course; he trembled for the Event; conscious of his own Villainy, and that his HEAD had been long forfeited to the Justice of his Country, he determined to take the Electors by SURPRISE, to put them off their GUARD, and rob them of TIME, that no Opposition might be made to his Creatures, and the People be prevented from fixing upon Men of honest independent Principles, to whom they might with safety delegate the important, the sacred Trust of Representation.

Lord North communicated his Fears to the King, painted the daring rebellious Spirit of the AMERICANS, and told him, that the People HERE were as *disloyal* and *disaffected*, and that Hints had been thrown out in the public Prints, of Plans forming in different Parts of ENGLAND, for keeping out of the new Parliament most of HIS Friends, and unless prevented by some well concerted Scheme, there was but too much Reason to believe, from the Spirit of the People, that they would succeed; an Event, says this TRAITOR, much FEARED, and greatly DREADED by every Well-wisher to your Person and Government: Should it ever take Place, and there is a Country Party, or a Majority of mock Patriots in the House of Commons, who are Enemies to all Order and Government, you must be reduced to a most degrading Situation indeed; your present FRIENDS will then be unable to give you any Assistance; and instead of the Power being in YOUR Hands, it will then be in the Hands of the PEOPLE and you will be under the disgraceful Necessity of giving your Assent to the REPEAL of every Act which has been passed for the Purpose of raising a REVENUE, and ENFORCING a due Obedience to YOUR Authority: In short, you will be a King WITHOUT POWER, and subject to the Controul of a few Demagogues for Liberty, the Dregs of Mankind, and a common Rabble, who will always support them, nay, it may even endanger the Security of your Throne; for what will not a hot-headed Parliament do, with whom the VOICE of the People can have any Weight? the Plan for reducing the *Americans*, and making them dependent on your WILL, must be crushed; they will triumph in the Victory obtained over the just Power of Parliament and your Prerogative;

your

your faithful Servants will be *compelled* to leave you, and you will be without A REAL FRIEND to advise with. If your Majesty can get a Majority of *your Friends* re-chosen in the new Parliament, you will be able to raise what Money you please with THEIR Assistance; you will then be able to keep your present Ministers, and preserve them from the Resentment (which has been incurred by serving of YOU) of an enraged Rabble, who are made to believe through the Licentiousness of the Press, that they labour under a Load of accumulated Grievances. You will then be able to trample under foot, FACTION, SEDITION, and REBELLION throughout your Dominions, and to carry every Thing before you, agreeable to your royal Pleasure; with the Power of Parliament, and your Majesty's *Firmness* and *Perseverance*, you may bring *England* and *America* into a proper State of Subjection to your WILL. To accomplish this it will be necessary to prorogue the Parliament to some future Day, then to meet, and immediately after call a Council and *dissolve* them; in the mean Time YOUR Friends may be made acquainted with this Determination, and be PREPARED for the Election before any Opposition can possibly be made, or the People know any Thing of the Matter.

The King, firmly resolved on the People's RUIN, carested his villanious Minion, admired the Plan formed for our Destruction, and, drunk with Prerogative, sucked in the baneful Advice and pursued it.

Thus the present Parliament was smuggled, and thus in a most shameful, unprecedented, artful, and sudden Manner, was the last House of Commons dissolved by the King, to answer his own and his Ministers wicked, tyrannical, and bloody Designs against the People and Constitution of this Kingdom. Such an Instance, of an infamous Exertion of the royal Prerogative, and under the like Circumstances, is not to be found in the History of *England*; such an INJURY and INSULT was never before offered to a FREE PEOPLE, and never ought to be FORGIVEN: It was a Piece of *Hanoverian* TREACHERY, BASENESS, and INGRATITUDE, which has far exceeded all the artful Villainy and low Cunning of the discarded *Stuarts*. His Majesty (Heaven protect so much Goodness), out of a *Tenderness* to the Constitution, could not make so BAD a USE of his Prerogative (five Years back) as to DISSOLVE the same Parliament, when their iniquitous Proceedings, and their Violations of Justice, had roused the Indignation of the People, and he was requested to do it by upwards of EIGHTY THOUSAND

SAND Freeholders (*signed*) and the general Voice of the whole Nation: But in 1774 he got the better of that *Tenderness*, and, to answer his own Purposes, could exert the Royal Prerogative, (which he had absolutely *refused* to his Subjects, in the haughty Terms of a Despot) with no other View, but to OVERTURN the Constitution of the *British* Empire in *England* and *America*, and DESTROY or enslave the People.

His Majesty, his Minions, and Instruments of Slaughter, are now *safe*, in robbing the People of their Property, by shameful and iniquitous Taxes in Time of Peace; *safe* in their Subversion of the Protestant Religion; *safe* and successful in their cruel Plan for *starving* the honest and industrious Inhabitants, and destroying the Trade of the Town of *Boston* in *America*, and the Commerce of *England*; *safe* so far, in their Attempt to destroy the *Lives, Rights, Liberties, and Privileges*, of Millions; I say they are *safe*, in all these Violations of, and Depedations on, our national Security, and natural Rights, because we are TAME.

These MIGHTY CRIMES will sure ere long PROVOKE,
The Arm of *Britain* to some noble Stroke.

No wonder if such Deeds, should soon compel
America and *England* to REBEL:

Then *George* may boast, that he, by ART and HIRE,
Great *Nero* like, has set the World on Fire;
Might boast that *Thousands* by his Power fell,
And that he could e'en *Nero* far excell:

Bute shall rejoice, and instantly restore,
The *Stuart* Race, in all their cursed Power;
Shall seize upon the Throne he should defend,
And *Traitor* prove when *George* most wants a Friend.

This may not be; but should he still oppress
His injured Subjects, sure they'll seek redress,
When by Oppression, driven to despair,
If he don't Love them, they may make him FEAR;
And tho' by shameful Taxes, he has seiz'd
Their Treasure, and their Vitals squeeze'd,

Yet he should know, that SWORDS and ARMS remain,
When call'd by WRONGS, are seldom us'd in VAIN;
And Freedom's Sons, with Liberty inspir'd,
With mighty Rage and Indignation fir'd

'Gainst *England's* mortal Foes, no longer'll yield
To LAWLESS Power, arm'd with Virtue's Shield;
Their Cause most JUST, nay, HEAVEN's sacred Cause,
The Cause of TRUTH and VIOLATED LAWS,

Will

Will draw th' avenging word, (O glorious Deed!)
 Their LAWS to SAVE, and make those Traitors bleed ;
 Aided by Heav'n, all Danger will defy,
 And nobly Conquer, or like Britons die,
 Then, blessing FREEDOM with their parting Breath
 Will BRAVELY fall into the Arms of Death :
 A glorious Death, much better in the Grave,
 A FREEMAN buried, than a living SLAVE.
 'Twas first decreed, by that great Pow'r above,
 All should be FREE, and Heaven gave in Love
 That Blessing to Mankind, a SACRED TRUST,
 He who'd resign it, is to God UNJUST.

N. B. As we shall always have a particular Pleasure, in giving Satisfaction to our Readers, and complying with their Requests ; we do in this Number, agreeable to the Desire of an anonymous Writer of the 21st, give a Translation of the Motto at the Head of the first Number, although was explained in the third Page of that Paper.

Liberty with Danger is preferable to Servitude with Security.

The Motto to the Prophecy of Ruin is likewise translated in the under-written Advertisement.

No. III. will be addressed to the KING.

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 To the People of ENGLAND and AMERICA.

On the 1st Day of March will be Published, (Price 1s. 6d.)  
 in Quarto, on a fine Paper, and new Type,

The Prophecy of RUIN, a Poem.

*Ense velut stricto, quotis Lucilius ardens  
 Inpremit, rubet Auditor cui frigida Mens est.  
 Criminibus, tacite judant Præcordia Culpa.*

JUVENAL.

*Sharp as a Sword Lucilius drew his Pen,  
 And struck with panic Terror guilty Men,  
 At his just Strokes the harden'd Wretch would start,  
 Feel the cold Sweat, and tremble at the Heart.*

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 opposite Anderson's Coffee House, where Letters to the Publisher  
 will be thankfully received;